



The Investigator Newsletter

Facebook Marketplace scams



How to Buy and Sell Safely on Facebook Marketplace

About Us

Since 2000, BCSI Investigations Inc. has performed thousands of successful investigations. Our integrated team of investigators and support services ensure that the investigations are conducted promptly with leading-edge techniques.

With over 40 years of combined experience, BCSI Investigations Inc.

Facebook Marketplace scams

Facebook Marketplace is a simple and easy-to-use platform for people looking for deals on second-hand items. This system is based on trust: trust that the seller/buyer will show up, trust that the product is in good condition, and trust that they will pay.

Types of scams

The Deposit. The scammer tells a buyer that the item has high demand and requests a deposit to secure it. Once the scammer receives the deposit, both the item listing and the account disappear.

Fake E-transfer. A scammer acting as a buyer will email the seller, asking them to enter their bank information to receive the deposit. Instead of receiving the money, the scammer will get the bank information that the seller just entered.

Using Marketplace Safely

When using the Marketplace, it's important to meet the seller or buyer in a public space, such as in front of a police station or inside a café like Starbucks.

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Meeting in person allows you to inspect the item to ensure it's in good condition and to exchange cash, which is more reliable than e-transfer. Be aware that scammers often ask for payment before meeting. You should never send money or accept an e-transfer before handing over the item.

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